

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 02830

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: PLANNING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE GROUP
XXXI - XXXV (1980-84)

REFS: (A) STATE 62967, 110031Z MAR 78 (PASEP), (B)
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SUMMARY. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING TOWARD THE GOAL SUGGESTED
IN REF A ON DEVELOPMENT FOR MINISTERIAL CONSIDERATION
OF A CONSOLIDATED LISTING OF LONG-TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM
(LTDP) INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS IN THE TIME FRAME
OF THE NEXT TWO SLICE GROUPS (1980-1989). END SUMMARY.

1. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION
OF NATO INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMING, BOTH IN RESOURCES
AND IN SCOPE, WOULD MATERIALLY BENEFIT NATO AND, IN
PARTICULAR, THE US AND FRG (THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS
WITH LARGE CENTRAL EUROPEAN BASES). AS INDICATED IN
REF B, THE NATO CLIMATE IS INCREASINGLY FAVORABLE TO
SUCH AN EXPANSION. WE FULLY AGREE, HOWEVER, THAT A
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DIRECT AND VISIBLE LINKAGE OF LTDP AND INFRASTRUCTURE
WOULD REINFORCE THE PRESENT TREND AND UNDERScore THE
IMPORTANCE OF THE COMMON PROGRAM IN AIDING THE NATIONS
IN THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF TASKS ACCEPTED UNDER THE LTDP.

2. ALTHOUGH MINISTERIAL APPROVAL OF THE FIVE-YEAR
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM REQUIRES SPECIFIC EARMARKING OF

THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS BY NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, WE BELIEVE THAT FOR NATO PLANNING PURPOSES AN ADDITIONAL FIVE-YEAR POTENTIAL GOAL COULD BE ENDORSED AT THE SUMMIT IN GENERAL TERMS TO AVOID PLACING TOO STRINGENT A FUND LIMITATION ON THE LATTER PERIOD. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SUGGESTION IN REF A, WE WOULD PROPOSE A CONSOLIDATED LISTING OF INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS EMERGING FROM THE LTDP, FOR ENDORSEMENT BY MINISTERS IN MAY 78, BUT NOTE THE DANGER THAT SUCH ENDORSEMENT COULD WELL BE INTERPRETED AS SUPERSEDING THE MNC REQUESTS OR AS CONSTITUTING THE HIGHEST PRIORITIES WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDS, THUS DISPLACING OTHER URGENT PROJECTS (I.E., AIRCRAFT SHELTERS, LRSP, ETC.). REQUIREMENTS FROM LTDP SHOULD BE CONFINED TO THOSE LIKELY TO IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE NEXT TWO FIVE-YEAR SLICE GROUPS, I.E., THE PERIOD 1980-89. THEY SHOULD ALSO BE GROUPED BY CATEGORY, THUS HIGHLIGHTING THE PROBABLE NEED FOR INTRODUCTION OF SOME NEW CATEGORIES, E.G., RECEPTION/REINFORCEMENT, LINE OF COMMUNICATION, PRE-POSITIONED STOCKAGE, AMMUNITION STORAGE, ETC.

3. AS IT HAPPENS, DURING THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF (IMS) REVIEW OF THE LTDP, A MEMBER OF THE IMS CIRCULATED AN ANALYSIS OF INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS FROM LTDP REPORTS. UNFORTUNATELY, IT GOES NEITHER FAR ENOUGH NOR DEEP ENOUGH AND SUFFERS FROM SEVERAL INACCURACIES, INCLUDING AN ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION THAT LTDP

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PROJECTS CAN BE COVERED WITHIN THE FIVE-YEAR FORECAST BY MNCS (REPORTED REF B). NEVERTHELESS, IT IS A FIRST STEP TOWARD CONSOLIDATION AND WE WILL WORK WITH USDEL MC ON IMPROVEMENTS. WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT THE FINAL CONSOLIDATION TASK DESCRIBED IN PARA 2 ABOVE BE HANDLED BY A SPECIAL TEAM INCLUDING SHAPE, SACLAN, IMS AND NIS REPRESENTATION, PROBABLY ONE EACH, REPORTING THROUGH ASYG WALSH TO THE EWG. THEIR PRODUCT COULD THEN BE PROCESSED AS A SEPARATE ACTION RECOMMENDATION TO MINISTERS. WE MIGHT, IN ADDITION TO ENDORSING LTDP INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS, REITERATE THE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE FOR 1977 WHICH STRESSED THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES AND CALLED FOR GREATER BACKING OF THE PROGRAM.

4. SYG LUNS HAD REFERRED TO THAT GUIDANCE IN HIS INTRODUCTION TO MINISTERIAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE STATUS OF INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN DECEMBER 1977 (PARA 65 OF DPC/R(77)22). MORE TO THE PRESENT POINT, SECDEF IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED LUNS WITH SOME REFERENCES TO THE LINKAGE BETWEEN LTDP AND INFRASTRUCTURE (PARAS 66-68 IBID), SUGGESTING THAT THE LTDP WOULD "PERMIT THE

PROVISION OF A MEANS OF EVALUATING RELATIVE PRIORITIES
OF THE VARIOUS TYPES OF INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES"
AND PROPOSING THAT MINISTERS "TASK THE EXECUTIVE WORKING
GROUP, WHEN THE TASK FORCE REPORTS HAD BEEN RECEIVED,
TO MAKE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE DEGREE OF INFRASTRUCTURE
INCREASES NEEDED TO CARRY ON THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE
PROGRAMME." WE THUS HAVE AVAILABLE A USEFUL BASE FROM
WHICH TO PROPOSE THE SPECIAL LTDP ANALYSIS OF
ADDITIONAL (RATHER THAN SUBSTITUTE) INFRASTRUCTURE
REQUIREMENTS. BENNETT

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